

Course Code: HIS 120 (IAI S2 923D)

Course Title: African American History to 1865

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 54.9996

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

History of African American people in the United States from the African past to 1865. Emphasis on the changing economic, political, social, and cultural conditions of African Americans and on their contributions to American society.

General Course Objectives

To provide students an introduction to the history of African-American women and men in the U.S. from the African past to 1865.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Students take a midterm and a final exam; both are mixed objective-essay exams. Students are required to complete reading and writing assignments which include the use of primary and secondary sources.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

The African Americans, Author: Gates. 978-1401935153

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Africa: the Land, Peoples and Cultures	1. Describe the basic geographical regions and cultures existing in Africa from 1000 to 1500 AD.	3	0	0
The Slave Trade and the New World	1. Explain the economic, political, and cultural factors in Europe and Africa which led to the creation of the African slave trade, and describe the conditions of the traders and their victims.	3	0	0
Capitalism and the Origins of Slavery	1. Analyze the role capitalism played in the development of slavery in the Caribbean and North America.	3	0	0
The Evolution of the Slave System in 18th Century America	1. Outline the development of the slave system in each region (the Chesapeake, Carolinas, Middle States, New England) of the U.S.	3	0	0
The Impact of the Revolution on African-American People	1. Explain the relationship of revolutionary ideas to the origin of the anti-slavery movement.	3	0	0
Slave Families and Slave Communities in the New Nation	1. Describe the characteristics and functions of the families and communities created by African-Americans living in slavery.	3	0	0
Slavery in the Cities	1. Compare and contrast the lives of African-Americans living in cities and rural (on farms or plantations) settings, and explain the impact of industrialization on African-American peoples.	3	0	0
The Peculiar Institution before the Civil War	1. Analyze and explain the major elements of the slave system (e.g. the slave code, sexual exploitation, conditions of labor, profitability, pro-slavery ideology), and describe the major forms of resistance to the institution.	6	0	0
Quasi-Free African-Americans	1. Identify and explain the conditions of African-Americans who were quasi-free before the Civil War.	3	0	0
African-American Culture	1. Describe the work of African-Americans in the fields of religion, science, music, education, art, philosophy, and literature.	3	0	0
The Abolitionist Movement	1. Delineate the history of the ideas, organizations, and individuals involved in the abolitionist movement before the Civil War.	6	0	0
The African-American Experience during the Civil War	1. Describe the experiences of African-American women and men in the Civil War.	6	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0